



State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 12, 2006

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NOTICE OF MEETING

On Thursday, January 26, 2006, the Little Hoover Commission will conduct a public hearing on the State's role and organization in emergency preparedness. The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. in Room 437 of the State Capitol in Sacramento.

The hearing is part of the Commission's review of California's emergency preparedness, with emphasis on the State's capacity to respond to a major catastrophe when local resources are overwhelmed. The recent hurricanes on the Gulf coast, along with the expanding threat of avian flu, have highlighted the need to examine the capacity of local, state and federal officials to respond to a range of possible emergencies. At this hearing, the Commission will hear from state and local officials and experts to explore the role of the State in ensuring sufficient capacity for prevention, preparedness, incident response and recovery. The Commission also will examine organizational strategies to integrate the policies and resources of various agencies. A complete agenda is on the reverse.

At a second hearing in February, the Commission will investigate opportunities for designing funding strategies to meet emergency preparedness goals, and will explore strategies to ensure accountability. As part of its review, the Commission also is convening advisory panel meetings in three communities to explore the challenges facing California and potential reforms.

The Commission intends to complete its review in the spring and issue findings and recommendations for reform to policy-makers.

There will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the hearing. The Commission also encourages written comments.

All public notices for meetings are on the Commission's Web site: www.lhc.ca.gov. If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Nancy Lyons at (916) 445-2125 or littlehoover@lhc.ca.gov by Thursday, January 19, 2006. Commission hearings can be viewed via Webcast within a week after the hearing date on the California Channel Web site, www.calchannel.com.



LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

AGENDA

Public Hearing on Emergency Preparedness Thursday, January 26, 2006 State Capitol, Room 437 Sacramento

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Public Hearing: 9 a.m.

Panel – State Role

1. Matthew R. Bettenhausen, Director, Office of Homeland Security
2. Henry Renteria, Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
3. David Heyman, Director, Homeland Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C.
4. Guna Selvaduray, Professor and Executive Director, Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation, San Jose State University

Panel – State Organization

5. Leon E. Panetta, Director, Leon & Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy, California State University, Monterey Bay
6. Jonah J. Czerwinski, Director of Homeland Security Projects, Center for the Study of the Presidency, Washington, D.C.
7. Michael A. Wermuth, Director, Homeland Security Program, RAND Corporation
8. Deborah Steffen, former Director, San Diego County Office of Emergency Services and former Regional Administrator, Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Public comment will be taken at the end of the hearing. All written testimony submitted electronically is posted on the Commission's Web site at www.lhc.ca.gov.

Business Meeting Agenda

(The Commission will consider agenda items I-VII at approximately 11:30 a.m. The precise time will vary depending upon the testimony of witnesses and will be determined at the discretion of the chair.)

- I. Business Meeting Minutes from November 17, 2005
- II. Update on Executive Director Recruitment
- III. Project Selection / Schedule
- IV. Subcommittee Reports
- V. Implementation Activity
- VI. Reports from the Bureau of State Audits
- VII. Annual Audit of Bureau of State Audits, conducted by Gilbert Associates, Inc.